GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
AUTOMATION OF RETAIL OUTLETS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil marketing companies are lagging behind in automation of their retail outlets;

(b) if so, the target date stipulated to complete automation of retail outlets and steps taken to meet the deadline;

(c) the total number of complaints received by oil marketing companies concerning sale of adulterated petroleum products at the retail outlets during the last three years and how many of them found to be true; and

(d) the measures taken to check adulteration of petroleum products at retail outlets?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): As on 15.02.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have completed approx 60% automation of the Retail Outlets (ROs) selling more than 200 KL per month. Automation of balance 40% ROs is scheduled to be completed by October 2008.

(c): During the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006â€"07, OMCs have received 177 complaints out of which 16 complaints were found established. Action has been taken by OMCs against ROs dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines /Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies etc.

(d): Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.
In spite of above, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.
In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.